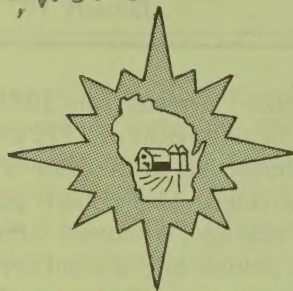


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U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

WISCONSIN *Farm Reporter*

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. V, NO. 3

PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

January 1973

Cream of the News

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in December are expected to average \$6.00 a hundredweight for the first time.

The preliminary estimate of Wisconsin's milk production for 1972 was 19,638 million pounds, an increase of 4 percent from 1971 and nearly 1½ percent more than the previous record output in 1964.

Wholesale prices of cheese and butter increased from November to December.

Butter production in Wisconsin and the Nation during November was below a year earlier for the fourth consecutive month but cheese production continued higher.

The index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products reached a record high in mid-December as livestock and crop prices were up from the previous month.

Red meat production in Wisconsin during November was down 4 percent from a year earlier as pork output continued lower.

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged a record high of \$30.66 a hundredweight in December.

The number of sheep and lambs on feed in Wisconsin continued to decline as only 15,000 were being fed on January 1, down 6,000 from a year ago.

Wisconsin's crop production in 1972 was lower than in 1971 due to a decline in the harvested acreage and the yield per acre for most crops.

Cattle feeders in Wisconsin had 1 percent fewer cattle and calves on feed January 1 than a year ago but the 23 major feeding states were up 4 percent.

Based on the January intentions survey, farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation plan to increase planted acreage for most of the major field crops in 1973.

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of December were above the previous year for the first time since November 1971.

MILK PRICE EXPECTED TO REACH \$6.00 A HUNDREDWEIGHT

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk sold in December was expected to average \$6.00 a hundredweight for the first time. This price would be 7 cents higher than in November and 48 cents above December 1971. A year ago milk prices increased 3 cents from November to December.

The November milk price of \$5.93 a hundredweight was up 12 cents from October and 44 cents more than November 1971. Milkfat content averaged 3.87 percent in November compared with 3.83 percent a year earlier.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$6.04 a hundredweight during November, a gain of 10 cents from the previous month and 36 cents above November 1971. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$5.76 a hundredweight for November, was 12 cents higher than October and 54 cents more than a year earlier. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 28 cents in November compared with 46 cents for that month in 1971.

A preliminary average of the monthly prices for 1972 shows that Wisconsin farmers received \$5.56 a hundredweight for all milk sold in 1972. This was 26 cents above the 1971 average and the ninth consecutive year that the annual milk price exceeded the previous year.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	October 1972		November price per cwt.			Dec. 1972 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1971	1972	72/71 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.86	5.81	5.49	5.93	+ 8	6.00
Minnesota	3.70	5.37	5.14	5.53	+ 8	5.54
Iowa	3.73	5.63	5.33	5.77	+ 8	5.85
New York	3.68	7.15	6.65	7.05	+ 6	6.95
California	3.60	5.70	5.80	5.80	n. c.	6.00
United States	3.74	6.42	6.18	6.55	+ 6	6.57
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.85	5.94	5.68	6.04	+ 6	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.87	5.64	5.22	5.76	+ 10	xxx
Creameries	3.85	5.48	5.19	5.57	+ 7	xxx
Cheese factories ..	3.87	5.67	5.22	5.79	+ 11	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.87	5.53	5.19	5.65	+ 9	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	Nov. 1971	Oct. 1972	Nov. 1972 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	5.01	5.27	5.36	+ 7
Market milk	5.23	5.40	5.49	+ 5
Manufacturing milk	4.74	5.10	5.17	+ 9
Creameries	4.69	4.98	5.05	+ 8
American cheese plants	4.75	5.13	5.19	+ 9
Varied products plants	4.67	5.00	5.10	+ 9
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone 3/..	5.55	5.76	5.95	+ 7

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary. 3/Includes Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and Winnebago County, Illinois.

1972 MILK PRODUCTION INCREASES 4 PERCENT

The preliminary estimate of Wisconsin's milk production for 1972 was 19,638 million pounds, an increase of 4 percent from 1971 and almost 1½ percent more than the previous record output in 1964. Wisconsin's 1972 milk production accounted for over 16 percent of the Nation's total.

Monthly milk production in Wisconsin during 1972 exceeded 1971 for all months. Output per cow was at record levels throughout 1972, reaching a high of 1,025 pounds in May and June. December's milk production in Wisconsin totaled 1,507 million pounds, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Production increased seasonally 8 percent from November to December compared with a 9 percent gain for those months in 1971. Output per cow averaged 800 pounds for December, an increase of 15 pounds from the previous year.

The Nation's milk production in December was 9,406 million pounds, about the same as a year earlier. Preliminary estimates of milk production in the Nation during 1972 totaled

Milk Production

Selected States	December 1971	December 1972	Jan.-Dec. 1972	Change from last year	
				Dec.	Jan.-Dec.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,464	1,507	19,638	+ 3	+ 4
Minnesota	762	758	9,671	- 1	+ 1
Iowa	356	344	4,506	- 3	- 2
New York	824	773	10,156	- 6	- 2
Pennsylvania	574	542	7,014	- 6	- 2
California	779	831	10,341	+ 7	+ 7
Other states	4,664	4,651	59,075	n. c.	+ 1
United States	9,423	9,406	120,401	n. c.	+ 1

120,401 million pounds, up more than 1 percent from 1971. Production was above a year earlier in all months of 1972 except December. Grain and concentrates fed to the Nation's milk cows as of January 1, 1973 averaged 13.5 pounds per cow compared with 12.2 pounds a year ago. Wisconsin farmers were feeding an average of 13.1 pounds of grain and concentrates per cow on January 1, an increase of 1½ pounds from that date in 1972.

BUTTER PRODUCTION CONTINUES LOWER

Production of butter in Wisconsin and the Nation during November was below a year earlier for the fourth consecutive month. The Nation's butter output for November totaled 73 million pounds, down 8 percent from the previous year. Minnesota, the leading butter making state, had a decline of 19 percent in November and Iowa produced 24 percent less butter than in November 1971. Creameries in Wisconsin churned nearly 13 million pounds of butter during November, a decline of 4 percent from a year earlier.

Cheese production in the Nation during November was up 3 percent from the previous year. Output of Swiss cheese increased 10 percent and Italian production gained 3 percent. Declines of 1 percent were shown for Brick and Muenster and all other cheese.

American cheese production in the Nation during November totaled almost 107 million pounds, up 3 percent from

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Nov. 1971	Nov. 1972	Jan.-Nov. 1972	Change from last year	
				Nov.	Jan.-Nov.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	13,162	12,700	187,800	- 4	n. c.
Minnesota	19,048	15,438	242,398	- 19	- 8
Iowa	6,452	4,920	81,140	- 24	- 5
Other states	40,669	40,095	517,264	- 1	n. c.
United States	79,331	73,153	1,028,602	- 8	- 2
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	44,924	48,800	700,100	+ 9	+ 13
Minnesota	12,753	14,659	173,254	+ 15	+ 16
Missouri	5,881	5,000	86,930	- 15	+ 3
Other states	40,063	38,452	596,499	- 4	+ 10
United States	103,621	106,911	1,556,783	+ 3	+ 12
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	12,576	13,855	161,097	+ 10	+ 15
Brick and Muenster	5,354	5,319	62,659	- 1	+ 10
Limburger	270	178	2,308	- 34	- 2
Italian	38,410	39,459	448,443	+ 3	+ 9
All other	19,282	19,161	176,386	- 1	+ 4
Total	75,892	77,972	850,893	+ 3	+ 9
ALL CHEESE					
United States	179,513	184,883	2,407,676	+ 3	+ 11
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/.....	58,303	60,299	726,484	+ 3	+ 6
Creamed 2/...	78,933	77,927	963,679	- 1	+ 4
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin.....	1,522	1,300	17,955	- 15	- 3
Illinois	3,107	3,375	40,055	+ 9	+ 3
Iowa	551	500	7,240	- 9	+ 7
Michigan	2,671	2,680	35,525	n. c.	+ 6
Minnesota	2,178	2,380	28,145	+ 9	+ 8
Other states	45,336	44,898	605,525	- 1	+ 2
United States	55,365	55,133	734,445	n. c.	+ 3

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

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November 1971. Wisconsin factories made nearly 49 million pounds of American cheese in November, an increase of 9 percent from a year earlier. Output of American cheese in Minnesota for November was 15 percent above the previous year but Missouri showed a decline of 15 percent and all other states combined were down 4 percent.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1970	Nov. 30, 1971	Nov. 30, 1972	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	4,781	5,293	4,223	- 20
Dried skim milk	103,845	86,194	35,837	- 58
Dried buttermilk	7,955	2,144	2,538	+ 18
Condensed milk and Evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ ..	147,508	111,729	103,861	- 7

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

WHOLESALE CHEESE AND BUTTER PRICES HIGHER

Wholesale prices of cheese and butter increased from November to December. Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 76 cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during December, up slightly from November and nearly 11 cents higher than December 1971. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 63¾ cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets in December, a gain of ¾ cent a pound from the previous month and 5½ cents above a year earlier.

Butter, 92-score at New York, averaged almost 71½ cents a pound in December. This was an increase of more than 1 cent from November and 2½ cents greater than December 1971.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	December 1971	November 1972	December 1972 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	68.99¢	70.31¢	71.47¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	58.21¢	63.01¢	63.75¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	65.10¢	75.86¢	76.00¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$7.70-9.08	\$8.10-9.10	\$ - - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	31.63¢	34.99¢	37.36¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION FOR DECEMBER MAY BE DOWN

Weekly estimates of American cheese production in the Nation during December 1972 indicate a slight decline from a year earlier. This would be the first time since July 1969 that output of American cheese in the Nation was below the previous year. While the Nation's production of American cheese in December could be down 1 percent, Wisconsin's output was expected to be up about 3 percent. From January through November, production of American cheese in the Nation was 12 percent above that period in 1971 and Wisconsin showed a gain of 13 percent.

Weekly estimates of butter production in the Nation during December indicate a 10 percent decline from a year earlier. Churnings in Wisconsin for December will be about

9 percent under the previous year. During the first 11 months of 1972, butter production in the Nation was down 2 percent from the comparable period of 1971 while Wisconsin showed little change.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1972	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1972	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
November . .	73,153	- 8	- 4	106,911	+ 3	+ 9
Jan.-Nov. . .	1,028,602	- 2	n. c.	1,556,783	+ 12	+ 13
Weeks ending						
Dec. 7 . . .	17,850	- 8	- 10	24,250	n. c.	+ 3
Dec. 14 . . .	17,300	- 7	- 7	24,700	+ 2	+ 5
Dec. 21 . . .	17,300	- 10	- 6	25,700	- 4	+ 3
Dec. 28 . . .	19,800	- 15	- 12	28,800	- 1	+ 2
Total	72,250	- 10	xxx	103,450	- 1	xxx

BUTTER STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

Cold storage stocks of butter in the Nation at the end of December were above a year ago for the first time since November 1971. Butter stocks in cold storage on December 31 amounted to more than 101 million pounds, an increase of 5 percent from the previous year but 14 percent below two years ago. The Government owned nearly 91 million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of December, up 28 percent from a year earlier.

Stocks of American cheese in the Nation's cold storage facilities on December 31 were 12 percent higher than on that date in 1971. Supplies of Swiss cheese in cold storage were down 4 percent and stocks of all other cheese declined 7 percent from December 31, 1971. Total cheese stocks in cold storage at the end of 1972 amounted to 328 million pounds, a gain of 8 percent from a year earlier.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1970	Dec. 31, 1971	Dec. 31, 1972	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	118,772	96,847	101,663	+ 5
Cheese, American	253,984	238,900	267,208	+ 12
Cheese, Swiss	12,644	7,783	7,451	- 4
Cheese, all other	57,855	57,585	53,624	- 7
Cheese, total	324,483	304,268	328,283	+ 8
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	1,133	4,497	4,168	- 7
Cheese, American	147,098	133,852	173,250	+ 29
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	99,055	70,685	90,702	+ 28
Cheese, American	1,266	3,259	174	- 95

*Included in above totals.

FARM PRODUCT PRICES HIGHER IN DECEMBER

Nearly all Wisconsin livestock and crop commodities increased in price from November to December. The index of prices received for Wisconsin farm products as of mid-December averaged 403 percent of the 1910-14 base, a record high

for any month. This index was up 3 percent from November and 15 percent higher than in December 1971.

Steers and heifers averaged \$34.20 a hundredweight as of December 15, a gain of \$2.00 from November and \$4.70 above a year earlier. Slaughter cows, at \$25.70 a hundredweight for December, were up 70 cents from November and \$5.10 higher than the previous year.

Hogs averaged \$28.50 a hundredweight as of mid-December, a record high for any month. The December hog price was \$1.90 more than a month earlier and \$8.80 above a year ago.

Lambs averaged \$26.70 a hundredweight in December, an increase of 40 cents from November and \$2.70 greater than December 1971. Sheep, at \$6.00 a hundredweight, were unchanged from mid-November but were 70 cents above the previous year. The December 15 wool price of 45 cents a pound was the same as a month earlier but 25 cents higher than December a year ago.

Calves were the only livestock item to decline from November to December. At \$47.20 a hundredweight for mid-December, calves were 30 cents under November but still \$5.90 more than December 1971.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	December 1970	December 1971	November 1972	December 1972
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	380.00	415.00	450.00	460.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	24.70	29.50	32.20	34.20
Cows	Cwt.	18.20	20.60	25.00	25.70
Calves	Cwt.	34.50	41.30	47.50	47.20
Hogs	Cwt.	15.60	19.70	26.60	28.50
Sheep	Cwt.	5.30	5.30	6.00	6.00
Lambs	Cwt.	23.10	24.00	26.30	26.70
Wool	Lb.	.34	.20	.45	.45
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.070	.070	.095	.095
Turkeys	Lb.	.230	.230	.240	.240
Eggs	Doz.	.330	.320	.330	.390
Corn	Bu.	1.35	1.10	1.16	1.30
Oats	Bu.	.75	.70	.78	.86
Soybeans	Bu.	2.60	2.93	3.30	3.70
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	20.50	21.50	31.00	33.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Egg prices increased 6 cents a dozen from November to December. Eggs averaged 39 cents a dozen as of December 15, up 7 cents from a year earlier and the best monthly average since March 1970. Turkeys averaged 24 cents a pound live-weight in December, the same as November but 1 cent higher than December 1971.

Corn, oats, soybeans, and hay all increased in price from November to December. Corn averaged \$1.30 a bushel in December, up 14 cents from the previous month and 20 cents above a year ago. Oats, at 86 cents a bushel as of mid-December, was 8 cents more than November and 16 cents greater than December 1971. This was the highest price for oats since March 1952. Soybeans averaged \$3.70 a bushel as of December 15, the most since reaching \$4.00 in June 1948. Soybeans were up 40 cents from November and 77 cents above December a year ago. Baled alfalfa hay achieved a record price of \$33.00 a ton in mid-December, an increase of \$2.00 from a month earlier and \$11.50 higher than December 1971.

FARM NUMBERS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

The number of farms in Wisconsin as of January 1, 1973 was estimated at 106,000. This was a decline of 1,000 farms from a year ago and 2,000 farms less than on January 1, 1971. Although farm numbers continued to decrease, the rate of decline was not as great in 1972 or 1973 as in earlier years.

The land in farms totaled 19.7 million acres on January 1 this year, a drop of 100,000 acres from a year ago. Land in farms has also been declining at a slower rate in the past two years. Since reaching a high of 23.9 million acres in 1942, land in farms has declined by more than four million acres. During the past 10 years, farm land has decreased by 10 percent while the number of farms dropped 18 percent.

As farm numbers declined, the average size of a Wisconsin farm has increased from a low of 113 acres in 1925 to a high of 186 acres by 1973. Farm size has gone up an average of 18 acres in the last 10 years.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms
Wisconsin and United States 1935-73 1/

Year	Wisconsin			United States 2/		
	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms	No. of farms	Average size	Land in farms
	Thous.	Acres	Mil. acres	Thous.	Acres	Mil. acres
1935	200	118	23.5	6,812	155	1,054.5
1940	193	119	22.9	6,097	174	1,060.9
1945	179	132	23.6	5,859	195	1,141.6
1950	174	136	23.6	5,648	213	1,202.0
1955	155	150	23.2	4,654	258	1,201.9
1960	138	161	22.2	3,963	297	1,175.6
1961	136	163	22.1	3,825	305	1,167.7
1962	133	165	22.0	3,692	314	1,159.4
1963	130	168	21.8	3,572	322	1,151.6
1964	127	170	21.6	3,457	332	1,146.1
1965	124	173	21.4	3,356	340	1,139.6
1966	121	175	21.2	3,257	348	1,131.8
1967	118	177	20.9	3,162	355	1,123.5
1968	115	179	20.6	3,071	363	1,115.2
1969	112	181	20.3	2,999	369	1,107.7
1970	110	183	20.1	2,954	373	1,102.8
1971	108	184	19.9	2,909	377	1,097.3
1972	107	185	19.8	2,870	381	1,093.0
1973 3/	106	186	19.7	2,831	385	1,088.7

1/Including Alaska and Hawaii. 2/Data prior to 1950 are from U. S. Agricultural Census. 3/Preliminary.

CROP PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1972

Production of the major field crops (corn, oats, and hay) in Wisconsin during 1972 was lower than in 1971 due to a decline in harvested acreage and yield per acre. Wisconsin's oats production in 1972 was down 22 percent from the previous year as harvested acreage declined 12 percent and the yield per acre was 7 bushels lower than in 1971. Production of corn for grain in Wisconsin during 1972 was 10 percent under a year earlier because of a 7 percent drop in harvested acreage and a 3 bushel per acre reduction in yield. Hay production in Wisconsin for 1972 was 8 percent below 1971 as harvested acreage was off 2 percent and the yield per acre was 2.60 tons compared with 2.78 tons in 1971.

Wisconsin's soybean production in 1972 was up 35 percent from the previous year. This was due to a substantial increase in planted acreage and a record high yield of 28

Crop Summary of Wisconsin for 1972

Crop	Acreage			Yield per acre			Unit	Production		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972		1970	1971	1972
	Thousands							Thousands		
FIELD CROPS										
Corn for grain	1,858	2,304	2,143	82.0	98.0	95.0	Bu.	152,356	225,792	203,585
Oats	1,687	1,535	1,350	63.0	62.0	55.0	Bu.	106,281	95,170	74,250
Barley	26	28	22	50.0	55.0	45.0	Bu.	1,300	1,540	990
Rye	11	12	10	23.0	24.0	20.0	Bu.	253	288	200
Wheat (all)	31	35	29	35.8	37.5	31.1	Bu.	1,110	1,314	901
Winter	20	22	20	39.0	42.0	32.0	Bu.	780	924	640
Spring	11	13	9	30.0	30.0	29.0	Bu.	330	390	261
Soybeans for beans	153	128	145	24.0	23.5	28.0	Bu.	3,672	3,008	4,060
Potatoes (all)	52.0	51.5	45.5	251	256	243	Cwt.	13,028	13,183	11,075
Late summer	15.5	15.5	15.0	240	235	230	Cwt.	3,720	3,643	3,450
Fall	36.5	36.0	30.5	255	265	250	Cwt.	9,308	9,540	7,625
Tobacco (all)	8.8	10.6	11.5	2,095	2,125	2,020	Lb.	18,436	22,525	23,235
Type 54	4.4	5.3	5.4	2,135	2,270	2,100	Lb.	9,394	12,031	11,340
Type 55	4.4	5.3	6.1	2,055	1,980	1,950	Lb.	9,042	10,494	11,895
HAY AND FORAGE										
Hay (all)	3,947	3,987	3,920	2.70	2.78	2.60	Ton	10,641	11,083	10,203
Alfalfa and mixtures	2,958	3,017	2,950	2.85	2.95	2.85	Ton	8,430	8,900	8,408
All other	989	970	970	2.24	2.25	1.85	Ton	2,211	2,183	1,795
VEGETABLE CROPS										
Carrots 1/	2.9	2.8	2.3	425	425	410	Cwt.	1,233	1,190	943
Cabbage 1/	6.4	5.8	5.3	335	345	320	Cwt.	2,144	2,001	1,696
Lettuce	1.6	1.6	.9	210	220	210	Cwt.	336	352	189
Mint for oil	11.1	10.3	4.5	55	43	30	Cwt.	611	443	135
Onions, commercial 1/	1.7	1.6	1.5	260	235	250	Cwt.	442	376	375
For processing:										
Green lima beans	6.6	5.3	6.4	.97	1.25	.82	Ton 2/	6.4	6.7	5.3
Peas	118.6	125.1	122.2	1.16	1.17	1.34	Ton 2/	137.6	146.4	163.8
Snap beans	44.1	50.1	45.5	2.26	2.59	2.67	Ton	99.7	129.8	121.5
Sweet corn	117.6	117.9	113.5	3.82	4.57	4.54	Ton	449.3	538.8	515.3
Cucumber for pickles	11.5	8.2	9.0	4.26	5.04	4.77	Ton	49.0	41.4	43.0
Beets for canning	5.8	5.8	4.5	10.43	11.66	14.00	Ton	60.5	67.7	63.0
FRUITS, ETC.										
Apples, commercial	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lb.	58,000	65,000	65,000
Tart cherries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ton	3.5	8.4	4.6
Cranberries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bbl.	702	742	800
Strawberries 1/	1.5	1.5	1.4	28	29	23	Cwt.	42	44	32

1/Includes portion processed. 2/Shelled.

bushels per acre. Output of tobacco in Wisconsin for 1972 was 3 percent above 1971. Although yield of tobacco in 1972 was below a year earlier, the acreage was up 8 percent. Wisconsin's 1972 potato crop had a sharp decline of 16 percent

from the previous year as the yield was lower and harvested acreage was down 12 percent. Poor harvesting weather severely curtailed the production of vegetables in Wisconsin during 1972. Of the fruits, apples and cranberries produced well in 1972 but winter damage reduced the strawberry and cherry crops.

MEAT STOCKS DOWN FROM A YEAR AGO

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of 1972 were down 13 percent from a year earlier. Beef supplies in cold storage were 2 percent above December 31, 1971 but pork stocks declined 32 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	Dec. 31, 1970	Dec. 31, 1971	Nov. 30, 1972	Dec. 31, 1972	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	326,493	357,745	340,035	362,004	+ 1
In cure and cured	11,872	8,227	11,255	11,366	+ 38
Total	338,365	365,972	351,290	373,370	+ 2
Pork:					
Frozen	312,436	309,698	221,226	209,602	- 32
In cooler	23,666	20,276	21,301	16,245	- 20
Total	336,102	329,974	242,527	225,847	- 32
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	8,717	8,964	11,962	12,183	+ 36
Lamb and mutton, frozen.	19,336	19,260	17,121	16,616	- 14
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	36,687	52,862	61,603	46,692	- 12
Other meats	20,059	18,721	17,573	16,547	- 12
Total, all meats	759,266	795,753	702,076	691,255	- 13

Weather Summary, December, 1972

Station	Temperature			Precipitation			
	Low	High	Mean	Normal	For month	Normal	Accumulative departure since January 1
Amery	-25	39	10	18	1.95	.82	+ 3.84
Superior	-17	35	11	18	.82	.88	+ 7.18
Spooner	-25	36	11	17	1.90	.84	+ .87
Park Falls	-21	34	12	17	2.66	1.16	+ 7.28
Rhineland	-24	34	13	18	2.62	1.14	+ 3.95
Medford	-27	37	12	18	3.28	1.33	+ 6.66
Marinette	-16	40	20	25	2.85	1.38	+ 2.58
Antigo	-29	36	15	20	2.74	1.03	+ 5.73
River Falls	-22	40	13	19	1.36	1.09	- .10
LaCrosse	-19	44	16	22	2.46	1.15	+ 5.28
Hatfield Dam	-36	44	15	21	3.54	.95	+ 7.72
Marshfield	-26	40	14	19	3.19	1.10	+ 6.88
Hancock	-26	41	16	21	1.78	1.03	+ 1.71
Green Bay	-21	39	17	22	2.49	1.18	+ 1.44
Oshkosh	-15	41	19	23	2.89	1.34	+ 5.46
Sheboygan	-9	42	23	26	3.04	1.68	+ 4.32
Lancaster	-13	46	19	24	2.15	1.35	+ 7.97
Darlington	-17	48	18	24	2.19	1.40	+ 5.00
Hillsboro	-19	45	18	22	1.21	1.13	+ 7.46
Portage	-20	44	18	24	2.52	1.29	+ 5.90
Madison	-17	44	17	23	1.91	1.31	+ .80
Beloit	-11	47	24	27	2.44	1.56	+ 17.20
Lake Geneva	-7	44	23	26	2.38	2.12	+ 16.86
Milwaukee (airport) ..	-10	42	20	25	2.47	1.63	+ 6.53
Average for 24 stations	-20	41	16	22	2.37	1.25	+ 5.77

WISCONSIN FARMERS PLAN TO INCREASE ACREAGE OF MAJOR FIELD CROPS

Wisconsin farmers intend to increase plantings of all the major field crops surveyed except oats. The expected acreage of the five major crops totals 4,981,000, an increase of nearly 3½ percent from the acreage planted for these crops in the spring of 1972.

Plantings of all field corn in Wisconsin for 1973 are expected to be 3,200,000 acres, 5 percent more than in 1972. If farmers follow these intentions, the 1973 corn acreage would be nearly equal to the record acreage planted in 1971.

Prospective plantings of soybeans indicate that 190,000 acres will be grown in Wisconsin in 1973, an increase of 19 percent from last year and 46 percent greater than two years ago. This would be the largest soybean acreage planted for beans since the 192,000 acres in 1967.

The 1973 oats crop is expected to total 1,554,000 acres based on the January intentions survey. If farmers carry out these intentions, the planted acreage of oats in 1973 would be 1 percent below 1972. Oat acreage has been on a decline since 1953 but the short supplies of oats and straw caused by harvesting losses in 1972 may influence farmers' plans further by spring.

Barley acreage for 1973 is expected to be 25,000, an increase of 1,000 acres from the previous year but 4,000 acres below 1971 and less than half of the 55,000 acres planted in 1968.

Seedings of spring wheat in 1973 could show an increase because of the difficulty last fall for planting winter wheat.

Based on farmers' intentions, a total of 12,000 acres of spring wheat will be grown in 1973 compared with 11,000 acres in 1972.

Farmers in the major producing states plan to increase the planted acreage of corn and soybeans in 1973. Acreage intentions for the small grains also indicate an increase for oats and spring wheat but a slight decline for barley.

Farmers in 35 states intend to plant 70½ million acres of corn for all purposes in 1973, up 7 percent from last year. These states accounted for over 98 percent of the Nation's corn acreage planted in 1972.

Soybean growers intend to plant almost 49 million acres of soybeans for 1973 in the 27 states surveyed. If realized, this would be 5 percent more than a year earlier for these states which accounted for 99 percent of the Nation's planted acreage of soybeans in 1972.

The 33 states surveyed for planting intentions of oats indicated an increase of 1 percent from the acreage planted in 1972. These states planted almost 99 percent of the Nation's oat acreage for harvest in 1972.

Seedings of spring wheat in 1973 are expected to be up 17 percent from 1972 because of substantial increases in the major spring wheat states of North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

Plantings of barley in 1973 could be down 1 percent from last year based on the January intentions survey. The three leading barley producing states — North Dakota, Montana, and California — indicate no change in plantings from the previous year.

Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1973 Intentions
Compared with 1971 and 1972 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1971	1972	1973	Change from last year	1971	1972	1973	Change from last year
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Field corn	3,212	3,051	3,200	+ 5	72,877	65,613	70,502	+ 7
Oats 1/	1,588	1,570	1,554	- 1	21,692	20,051	20,268	+ 1
Soybeans 2/	130	160	190	+ 19	43,048	46,538	48,763	+ 5
Barley 1/	29	24	25	+ 4	10,721	10,253	10,120	- 1
Spring wheat	14	11	12	+ 9	12,757	10,060	11,736	+ 17

1/U. S. total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Grown alone for all purposes.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

Cattle feeders in Wisconsin had 143,000 cattle and calves on feed January 1, 1973, a decline of 1 percent from a year earlier. A total of 91,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed in the last quarter of 1972 up 1 percent from that quarter in 1971. Fed cattle marketed numbered 54,000 during October through December, an increase of 2 percent from the comparable quarter in 1971.

Wisconsin cattle feeders intend to market 54,000 cattle in the first quarter of 1973. These expected marketings would be the same as a year earlier.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in 50 states totaled 14,485,000 on January 1, 1973, up 4 percent from that date last year. The 23 major feeding states had 13,920,000 on feed January 1, also 4 percent above the previous year.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in the North Central States totaled 7,677,000 on January 1, down 2 percent from a year ago. Iowa, the second ranking feeding state in the Nation, had 6 percent fewer cattle on feed than on January 1, 1972. The number on feed in Nebraska was up 2 percent and Kansas showed an increase of 14 percent.

Cattle and calves on feed in the 10 Western States numbered 6,243,000 on January 1, a gain of 14 percent from the previous year. Texas with an increase of 26 percent had the largest total on feed of any state. Cattle feeding in California was up 13 percent from January 1 last year while Colorado had an increase of 7 percent.

Cattle and calves placed on feed in the 23 major feeding states during October through December 1972 were 1 percent greater than during the same period in 1971. Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during the last quarter of 1972 were 9 percent more than marketed in that quarter of 1971. Cattle feeders in the 23 major feeding states intend to market 7 per-

cent more cattle during January through March 1973 than were marketed in the first quarter of 1972.

Cattle and Calves on Feed in the Nation
January 1, 1973 with Comparisons 1/ 2/

State	Jan. 1, 1971	Jan. 1, 1972	Oct. 1, 1972	Jan. 1, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 head				Percent
Pennsylvania	92	91	49	87	- 4
Ohio	308	320	174	300	- 6
Indiana	314	327	211	276	- 16
Illinois	649	662	400	585	- 12
Michigan	225	230	160	245	+ 7
Wisconsin	150	144	106	143	- 1
Minnesota	548	537	404	494	- 8
Iowa	1,992	2,112	1,408	1,981	- 6
Missouri	342	373	210	310	- 17
North Dakota	45	52	32	47	- 10
South Dakota	339	363	285	378	+ 4
Nebraska	1,422	1,550	1,403	1,581	+ 2
Kansas	916	1,100	1,150	1,250	+ 14
Oklahoma	236	253	272	272	+ 8
Texas	1,480	1,781	2,091	2,245	+ 26
Montana	130	165	105	160	- 3
Idaho	222	265	177	205	- 23
Colorado	888	983	978	1,050	+ 7
New Mexico	165	188	195	226	+ 20
Arizona	524	539	544	655	+ 22
Washington	141	168	162	180	+ 7
Oregon	80	82	52	69	- 16
California	1,001	1,045	1,206	1,181	+ 13
23 States	12,209	13,330	11,774	13,920	+ 4
New York	11	12		14	+ 16
Maryland	20	20		21	+ 5
Virginia	46	37		39	+ 5
North Carolina	49	47		45	- 4
South Carolina	18	23		26	+ 13
Georgia	59	62		65	+ 5
Florida	57	57		58	+ 2
Kentucky	48	44		38	- 14
Tennessee	29	27		14	- 48
Alabama	35	34		37	+ 9
Mississippi	15	17		14	- 18
Arkansas	17	17		18	+ 6
Louisiana	9	8		12	+ 50
Wyoming	35	37		31	- 16
Utah	68	55		48	- 13
Nevada	45	49		50	+ 2
39 States	12,770	13,876		14,450	+ 4
New Jersey		5		5	n. c.
West Virginia		10		11	+ 10
Other States		5		4	- 20
48 States		13,896		14,470	+ 4
Hawaii		15		15	n. c.
United States		13,911		14,485	+ 4

1/Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better. 2/Data not available for periods blank.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED
CONTINUE SHARP DECLINE

There were only 15,000 sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1973 in Wisconsin. This was 6,000 fewer than a year ago and 11,000 less than on January 1, 1971. Feeding of sheep and lambs for the slaughter market has been on the decline in Wisconsin for several years. The highest number on feed in Wisconsin was on January 1, 1932 when 124,000 sheep and lambs were being fattened for the slaughter market.

In the 26 states where estimates are made, there were 2,873,000 sheep and lambs on feed January 1, 1973, about the same as a year earlier. The North Central States were down 2 percent from January 1 last year but the Western States had a gain of 5 percent.

Sheep and lambs on feed in the seven major feeding

states on January 1 were 3 percent below the previous year. These seven states (California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Texas) accounted for over half of the total sheep and lambs on feed in the 26 states.

Sheep and Lambs: Number on Feed 1/

State and region	January 1, 1971	January 1, 1972	January 1, 1973	Change from last year
	1,000 head			Percent
New York	13	13	13	n. c.
Ohio	112	108	108	n. c.
Indiana	33	21	25	+ 19
Illinois	60	55	45	- 18
Michigan	60	46	51	+ 11
Wisconsin	26	21	15	- 29
Minnesota	111	109	107	- 2
Iowa	179	179	165	- 8
Missouri	49	44	40	- 9
North Dakota	105	100	110	+ 10
South Dakota	149	150	130	- 13
Nebraska	162	162	170	+ 5
Kansas	75	97	104	+ 7
N. C. States	1,121	1,092	1,070	- 2
Oklahoma	25	33	40	+ 21
Texas	279	399	339	- 15
Montana	100	100	120	+ 20
Idaho	141	102	76	- 25
Wyoming	150	174	205	+ 18
Colorado	500	500	530	+ 6
New Mexico	37	32	51	+ 59
Arizona	76	91	110	+ 21
Utah	80	85	85	n. c.
Nevada	23	28	19	- 32
Washington	18	25	23	- 8
Oregon	62	99	89	- 10
California	115	102	103	+ 1
Western States	1,302	1,338	1,411	+ 5
7 States 2/	1,459	1,589	1,541	- 3
26 States	2,740	2,875	2,873	n. c.

1/Sheep and lambs on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain, other concentrates or succulent pastures and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better. 2/Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Colorado and California.

RED MEAT
OUTPUT LOWER

Commercial slaughter plants in Wisconsin produced 102 million pounds of red meat during November, a decline of 4 percent from a year earlier. Beef production was up 7 percent but output of pork was 16 percent below November 1971.

The 97,000 cattle slaughtered in November were 3,500 more than the previous year. Average liveweight of cattle was 1,146 pounds for November, an increase of 30 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

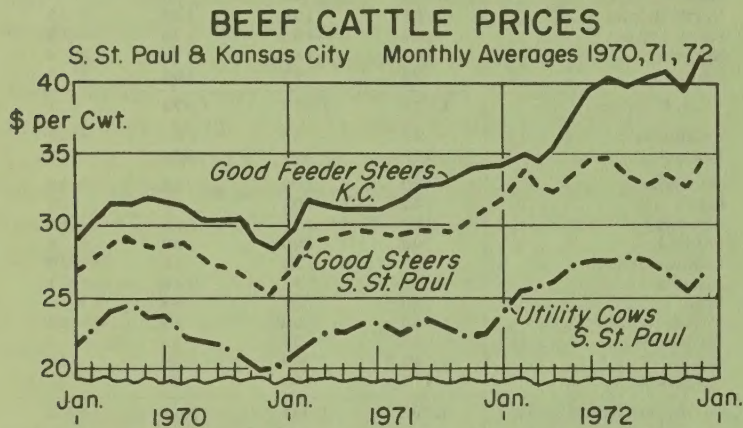
Area	Number			Liveweight	
	November		Change from last year	November	
	1971	1972		1971	1972
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	93.5	97.0	+ 4	104.3	111.2
United States 1/ . .	2,923.5	2,986.0	+ 2	3,024.4	3,149.8
Calves					
Wisconsin	23.9	19.4	— 19	3.7	3.3
United States 1/ . .	302.7	253.6	— 16	75.0	62.1
Hogs					
Wisconsin	330.0	290.0	— 12	78.5	66.7
United States 1/ . .	8,217.0	7,459.9	— 9	1,989.5	1,823.9
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin4	.4	n. c.	.039	.037
United States 1/ . .	859.0	854.2	— 1	90.1	91.4

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES HIGHER

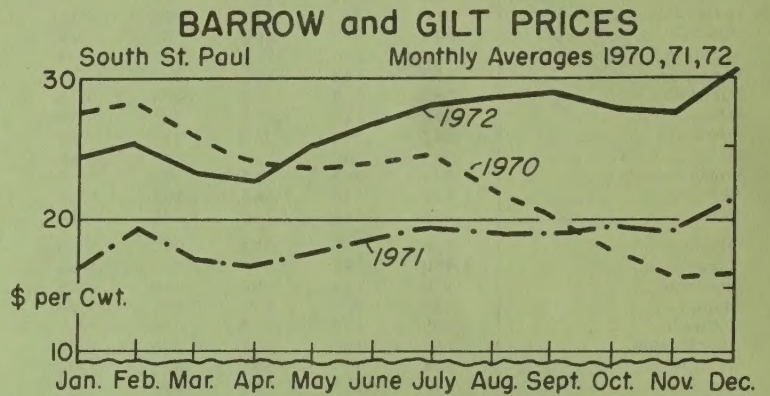
Prices of feeder steers, slaughter cows, and fed steers increased from November to December. Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$41.92 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market in December, a record price. Feeder steers were up \$2.17 from November and were \$7.86 above December 1971.

Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$34.51 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market in December. This was an increase of \$1.86 from the previous month and \$3.48 higher than a year ago. Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$26.76 a hundredweight during December, up \$1.10 from November and \$4.12 more than a year earlier.



HOG PRICE AT RECORD HIGH

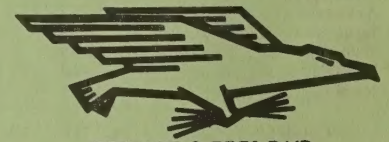
Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market averaged \$30.66 a hundredweight in December, a record high price for any month. The December hog price was \$2.95 higher than November and \$9.69 above the previous year. During 1972, prices of barrows and gilts at St. Paul averaged \$26.75 a hundredweight, a gain of \$8.27 from the 1971 average.



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